Cracking the Egyptian Code is the first biography in English of Jean-François Champollion, the impoverished, arrogant and brilliant child of the French Revolution who made the vital breakthrough in deciphering the Egyptian hieroglyphs. This finely illustrated account charts Champollion’s dramatic life and achievements: by turns a teenage professor, a supporter of Napoleon, an exile, a fanatical decipherer and a curator at the Louvre, he lived life to the full but drove himself into an early grave. Andrew Robinson’s full-blooded account brings the man, his setbacks and his ultimate triumphs vividly to life.

Andrew Robinson has written more than twenty-five books on the arts and sciences. They include The Story of Writing, Lost Languages: The Enigma of the World’s Undeciphered Scripts, The Man Who Deciphered Linear B and Earthshock, which won the Association of Earth Science Editors Outstanding Publication Award.